The State of State History in Tennessee in 2004

A Report by State Historian
Walter T. Durham

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Tennessee State Library and Archives
Department of State
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
2004

The Honorable Riley C. Darnell
Secretary of State

Dr. Edwin Gleaves
State Librarian and Archivist

Department of State, Authorization No. 305294, 2,000 copies, September 2004. This public document was promulgated at a cost of $1.05 per copy.

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Introduction

The purpose of this report, *The State of State History in Tennessee in 2004*, is to determine where we are in preserving and delivering Tennessee history to the people of this state and to those beyond our borders. We can agree that our history deserves attention and dissemination. But how is the delivery being made? Who are the persons, institutions, and agencies making delivery? Are their methods effective? Does the interpretation receive the fairest, most objective study?

There are myriad agents involved, but do they cooperate, collaborate, or go their separate ways? Are there common themes? How much duplication of effort can be identified? The majority of the persons participating are volunteers. Do volunteers function in a sustained, dependable manner? Are related state agencies adequately funded? And finally, what is our greatest need?

Researching and writing about this great state for the past 35 years prepared me for discovering an incredible variety of organizations that preserve and communicate Tennessee history. I was not prepared for the large numbers that appeared in all categories, however.

The names of more than one thousand such organizations and institutions are included in an accompanying volume, *A Directory of Tennessee Agencies, Governmental and Nongovernmental, Bringing State and Local History to the Public*. We intentionally omitted the names of public and private schools K-12, secondary schools, churches, synagogues, private collectors, local chapters of patriotic and veterans organizations, the names of radio, print, and electronic media, and most publishing houses. With few exceptions, the only persons listed by name are the county historians, a total of 95 when all appointments are filled.

Recognizing the large commitment of human resources necessary to keep these agencies in operation, I believed it was imperative to sample the workings of historical organizations of all kinds throughout the state. The text that follows mentions the programs and purposes of many of these with special attention to agencies funded exclusively by taxpayer dollars.

To prepare this report, I went directly to the historical community. I visited and consulted with the commissioners, director, and staff of the Tennessee Historical Commission; the executive director and the chief curator and director of collections, Tennessee State Museum; and the state librarian and archivist, the assistant state archivist, and members of the staff.

I then talked to public and private school administrators; professors and schoolteachers; heads of statewide, regional, and local historical societies; and writers, genealogists, and representatives of churches and synagogues. Next I had the input of national park superintendents, state park managers, archaeologists, and leaders of preservation activities local and statewide. I spoke with representatives of the various museums, county historians, re-enactors, practitioners of living history, oral historians, and leaders of patriotic and veterans organizations and battlefield societies. Wherever I was during the last ten months, I have broached this subject to anyone who would listen, and I have listened to any who responded. In addition to interviews, exchanges, and consultations, I convened a group of 21 representatives of the broad spectrum of Tennessee history to advise, consult, and share concerns with me. Overall, I have sought and received input directly from hundreds who are interested in Tennessee history.

I found that during the last half century, Tennesseans have largely ignored developments in a few states that have collected all or most of their history-related agencies into a single, cabinet-level department of history and culture. Typically the declared purposes were to improve programs, to

achieve better focused delivery, to eliminate duplication, to consolidate functions, to reduce costs, and to benefit otherwise from more efficient management and administration. The most obvious benefit to the public is the convenience of turning to a single agency instead of trying to decide which of several is appropriate to address. Among the most notably successful of the present day single agency operations are those in the states of Wisconsin, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

In 1992 *The Report of the Summerlee Commission on Texas History* recommended merging the history-related departments of that state into one, but no implementation has resulted. Recommendations for changes in programs and practices in specific agencies have been more positively received and have, in a number of cases, led to changes and improved performance. (In February 2004, the American Association for State and Local History, headquartered at Nashville, was unable to find that any state other than Texas and Tennessee had undertaken such a study in recent years.) Although the experiences of the referenced states should be monitored, I do not find that agency consolidation is advantageous for Tennessee at this time.

I make this report as State Historian and take full responsibility for it. The State Historian is attached to the State Library and Archives, a division of the office of the Secretary of State, and I could not have completed this undertaking without the ready cooperation and encouragement of Secretary of State Riley Darnell; Edwin S. Gleaves, State Librarian and Archivist; and Jeanne D. Sugg, Assistant State Librarian and Archivist for Administration. Publication of the *Directory* and *The State of State History in Tennessee in 2004* was made possible by the office of the Secretary of State, for which I am duly grateful. Director Herbert Harper and staff of the Tennessee Historical Commission, of which the State Historian is an ex officio member, offered unstinting cooperation.

Special thanks to all the many others who have helped and certainly to my relentless co-worker Glenda Brown Milliken.

Walter T. Durham
State Historian
April 30, 2004

Walter T. Durham has been interested in Tennessee history since he wrote an article about local history in 1940 for a Nashville daily newspaper. In the intervening years, he has participated broadly in bringing Tennessee history to the public. His experience includes serving in positions of responsibility in both local and statewide historical societies, preservation organizations, museums, libraries, archives, house museums, academic institutions, and the Tennessee Historical Commission. During that period, he has written and published seventeen books and numerous articles on Tennessee history subjects.

The State of State History in Tennessee in 2004

Part I

Tennessee has played a crucial role in our nation's history since the state's founding. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that our country's history cannot be properly understood without understanding the history of the Volunteer State. And if we Americans do not understand our country's history, we cannot understand our world today and our own place in it.

—Professor Stephen V. Ash
Lindsay Young Professor of History
University of Tennessee

Public Response

Public interest in Tennessee history has never been higher as the year 2004 finds thousands of Tennesseans participating in activities that bring it alive wherever they find it. To paraphrase an oft-quoted political axiom, "all history is local," and in this case it means it is local in the 95 counties of the state.

Today most Tennesseans begin learning about state history as students in an elementary school. Public school social studies curricula do not provide for separate courses in Tennessee history, but students encounter the subject matter in American history offerings in grades 4, 5, 8 and high school. Tennessee history is highlighted in these courses to relate the state and its citizens to the larger American experience, but the intensity of the highlighting depends greatly on the creativity of the teachers and their own interest in the subject.

The several independent and many faith-based schools K-12 seem to follow the public school pattern by exposing

students to a mix of Tennessee and U.S. history in grades 4, 5, 8, and high school.

National History Day enables elementary and high school students of certain grades to participate in competitions at district, state, and national levels. Working under a single theme broad enough to encompass entries on state and local history subjects, students may select some aspect of Tennessee history for their projects.

The next opportunity for class work comes after enrollment in a public college or university situated within the physical bounds of the state. Eight of the ten state-sponsored two-year colleges and all nine public universities offer courses in Tennessee history as do certain of the private colleges and universities. During the 2002-03 school year, 1,329 undergraduate students enrolled in Tennessee history classes at the public universities and 1,045 at the public colleges.

Older teens and adults usually show their interest in state history by associating with local organizations: historical, genealogical, and archaeological societies; museums, living history groups, and re-enactors; libraries, archives, historic houses, and preservation associations; and parks, trails, historic districts, historic zoning commissions, and various support groups. The interest manifested in these areas draws thousands of volunteer workers whose commitment honors the tradition of the Volunteer State.

I estimate that during the last ten years at least 300,000 Tennesseans, many professionals but an overwhelming majority of volunteers, have taken part in keeping Tennessee history alive and before the public. At times volunteer roles may have been of short duration, but volunteers always seemed available when needed.

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Participation in activities related to state history virtually guarantees a significant learning experience. It may come from attending lectures and discussions, from working

on the acquisition of an historic property, or from enlisting in a neighborhood association. At historic museum houses, tour guides, docents, and researchers become familiar with the history of the properties and the persons who occupied them. What a scenario for learning one of the most important lessons of all: how to fit local history into the broad sweep of the state and national experience.

Opportunities are boundless. Learning may come from editing or contributing to a newsletter or from writing articles for the local newspaper. Promoting television tours of the sites and creating interpretive videos open still other avenues of learning. Both amateur and professional writers can hone their skills in publications, video scripts, brochures, maps, and other materials.

Societies of all sizes and descriptions, historic site organizations, and many other history-oriented associations communicate with their constituencies by newsletter in hard copy. Some of the titles are: *The Rugbeian*, *APTA News*, *ETHS Newsletter*, *Tennessee Preservation Trust*, *West Tennessee Historical Society Newsletter*, *AASLA Dispatch*, *The Surveyor*, *Polk Notes*, *The Jacksonian*, and *The Tennessee Archivist*. Among the several impressive county historical society newsletters are the *Lauderdale County Historical Society Newsletter* and a similar publication called *Decatur County Historical Society*. Two award-winning quarterlies are *The Campbell Countian* published by the Campbell County Historical Society, and the *Quarterly and Newsletter* of the Polk County Historical and Genealogical Society.

There are others. The Historical Society of the Tennessee Conference United Methodist Church issues the quarterly *Methodism in the Tennessee Conference*. The Franklin County Historical Society publishes the *Franklin County Historical Review* biannually, and the Williamson County Historical Society produces its annual *Journal*. On December 1, 2003, there was a total of 48 current periodicals relating to Tennessee history in the holdings of the Tennessee State

Library and Archives. Thirty-six were generated by local history and/or genealogical societies and twelve by various other Tennessee heritage groups.

Most newspapers in the state provide coverage, some of generous proportions, for the activities of local historical groups. State history and local history provide sources of information for feature and human-interest stories. Often writers draw upon these sources for regular "columns" and, sometimes for special section articles detailing historical observances such as a tour of historic houses or living history demonstrations or a combination of historical activities. Some of the best recording of city and county history has appeared in the press in connection with the celebration of Black History month and local anniversaries such as centennials, sesquicentennials, and bicentennials.

The electronic media have turned often to local history as a source for both entertainment and informative programming. Television is a master medium for taking viewers to historic sites and leading them through their buildings and grounds. Commentary by local historians can add a nice touch. There are even times when revisiting a scene is justified by the introduction of new materials and/or expanded interpretations.

At a moment's notice, computer age e-mail and Internet web sites bring to hand photographs, explanatory texts, and maps of historic places. With links to related persons and institutions elsewhere, the computer has become an important tool for use in historical research.

Commercial and public radio are frequently willing communicators of local history by way of studio interviews as well as by broadcasting live from special events. Weekly and monthly programs about history have attracted listening audiences large enough to justify the airtime. Radio is a proven outlet for discussing and promoting books and periodicals of historical content.

During the last decade, there has been an outpouring of books on Tennessee history, both popular and scholarly, that in number and quality have eclipsed that of similar periods in the past. The University of Tennessee Press has finished publishing the 16 volumes of *The Papers of Andrew Johnson*. It has issued ten volumes of *The Correspondence of James K. Polk* and six of *The Papers of Andrew Jackson* with a number yet to go in each series.

The UT Press has published books on various aspects of Tennessee history for the past several years. From time to time, other academic presses in and outside the state have included Tennessee books in their titles. During its existence, now discontinued, Memphis State University Press produced several books including single volume histories of 19 of the state's 95 counties, the last in 1989.

Book-length treatments of local and state history have been published by state, regional, and local historical societies and museums. A number have come from the presses of commercial publishers.

Volunteers often learn history in big doses at small museums that often tantalize their larger counterparts with unexpected accessions of historic artifacts and creative exhibits. From time to time they succeed in seeking out difficult to obtain objects and bringing them into the collections. Several new museums are now in the planning stages, and most are forming in small towns.

For those attuned to historic preservation, there are endless opportunities to promote historic districts, historic zoning, nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, rehabilitation projects, and fund-raising. Even volunteer fund-raisers learn something of the historical cause they espouse, and they share it eagerly with the prospects they solicit. The pursuit of other preservation options can lead to research into architectural, social, and political history and related subjects.

Developing local walking and driving tours are increasingly popular options for historical societies. They usually prepare sketch maps of historic sites along well-marked routes and make them available at the local chamber of commerce and other appropriate outlets.

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A step or two away from local opportunities are those offered in the state at large and in its regions by larger not-for-profit organizations. The Tennessee Historical Society (THS) serves the entire state. The East Tennessee Historical Society (ETHS), the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society (MTGS), and the West Tennessee Historical Society (WTHS) are regional in scope. All four of the societies are open membership organizations, supported principally by membership fees and private contributions. The state partially funds the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* and the annual journals of the East and West Tennessee societies, however.

The Tennessee Historical Society, founded at Nashville in 1851, has been the state's flagship nongovernmental organization for preserving local and regional history. In 1927, the Society placed its books, manuscripts, and museum collections in trust to the State Library and Archives. Later the museum materials were transferred to the State Museum. The Society has continued to supplement those holdings by adding objects and papers gathered during the intervening years. In exchange for the THS materials, the state agreed to furnish office space, to support publication of the Society's quarterly magazine, and to provide care for both the library and museum collections.

Since 1941, the Society has published the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, a scholarly journal in popular format. Articles in the *Quarterly* cover the state with balanced attention to Tennessee history, old and new. It followed the earlier *Tennessee Historical Magazine* and the *American Historical Magazine* with origins in the 1890s. The Society has published a number of books, but its most ambitious undertaking was the 1,200-page *Tennessee*

Encyclopedia of History and Culture in 1998. In partnership with the University of Tennessee Press, the Society now hosts a free on-line version of the encyclopedia at http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net. Due to be off the press in 2004 is the Society's most recent undertaking, *A History of Tennessee Arts*.

THS uses public lectures, seminars, study groups, and workshops to fulfill further its educational mission. A current project is a symposium set for December 2004 in commemoration of the 140th anniversary of the battle of Nashville. It will feature new research on the context, strategy, and legacy of the battle and its place in Civil War history.

Under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the Society will coordinate a teacher-training program, "Teaching America's History," in twelve mid-state school districts. The program will be a cooperative project with Volunteer State Community College, Tennessee State University, and Wilson County Schools.

The Tennessee Historical Society, with 2,000 members, serves the entire state through its collections, publications, web sites, educational projects, and programs. Its focus is on the history of the people of the state who come from all walks of life and all geographical regions. Their experiences enrich Tennessee history from the earliest Native-American culture to the space age.

Recognized nationally for its regional history mission, **the East Tennessee Historical Society** operates from the former Customs House of 1874 in downtown Knoxville. It has 2,000 members and its declared purpose is to "preserve, interpret, and promote the history of Tennessee, focusing on East Tennessee." Although the Society concentrates its activities there with special attention to its affiliate chapters, it extends certain programs statewide.

Since 1993 ETHS has sponsored and operated the East Tennessee Historical Society Museum also located in the

former Customs House. During 2002, 16,000 visitors viewed museum displays that depicted a two-hundred-year overview of the region's history.

A $21,500,000 expansion and renovation of the present location will double the size of available facilities including offices and meeting rooms and space occupied by the museum, the Knox County Archives, and the McClung Historical Collection. The latter two operations are part of the Knox County Public Library System. Completion of the undertaking is expected during this year.

Founded in 1834, ETHS is one of the oldest cultural organizations in the state. It has published more than a dozen books on Tennessee history; distributes *Newsline*, a quarterly newsletter; and produces *Tennessee Ancestors*, a triannual publication devoted to genealogical research. Its *Journal of East Tennessee History* is a scholarly annual containing articles about Tennessee history of special interest in the region.

The Society conducts classroom and museum programs, lectures, seminars, conferences, and historic tours. For example, at Knoxville it stages a five-day "teachers history institute." Last year the subject was "Teaching Appalachia: the Image and Reality of Appalachian Culture." This year the institute will present "Cultures in Conflict: The Revolutionary Era on the Cherokee Frontier."

In addition, ETHS is serving as project director for the Tennessee River Valley Consortium Teaching American History project. Designed to increase the use of primary materials, local history resources, and technology in history instruction, it will reach teachers in seven counties and two city school districts.

In 1996, the East Tennessee Historical Society initiated the First Families of Tennessee, an enrollment of descendants from any ancestor who lived in the area prior to its achieving statehood in 1796. Research prompted by the

program resulted in more than 14,000 enrollments. A similar initiative now underway seeks to identify and catalog descendants of Civil War Families of Tennessee.

The West Tennessee Historical Society, based in Memphis, conducts an annual lecture series, encourages the publication of books, and participates in various public educational programs. The Society's trademark publication is *The West Tennessee Historical Society Papers*, an annual journal of articles primarily about the history of West Tennessee.

Most of the Society's meetings and lectures are held in Memphis, but once or twice each year a session is taken to another city in West Tennessee. Most recently the Society chose Martin and Jackson for these events.

The lecture series for 2003-2004, reflecting WTHS's traditional pattern, includes nine presentations ranging from updates on developments in Tennessee history to papers with titles such as "Homemade Yankees: West Tennessee Unionists in the Civil War Era," "General U. S. Grant and his Influence on the Civil War in West Tennessee," and "West Tennessee Tenancy." This year the Society's president is Tennessee coordinator for the public school National History Day program.

The membership of WTHS is somewhat smaller than that of THS and ETHS.

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Interest in genealogy, sparked nationwide in 1977 by the television miniseries *Roots* based on the book by Tennessean Alex Haley, has increased steadily throughout the state. Local genealogical societies have appeared and most have thrived. Local workshops and seminars on family history, held periodically, attract many interested participants.

Genealogists credit two important research aids with sustaining interest in Tennessee family history. One is the Internet that opens doors to libraries and research centers

worldwide. The other is the microfilmed collection of county records from across the state, centrally housed in the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville.

Narrowly focused a few years ago, the study of genealogy now frequently leads to an investigation of the history of the times in which one's ancestors lived. Genealogy has invaded local social, political, and military history. And it is now practiced by an impressive cross section of Tennessee citizens of representative racial and ethnic backgrounds.

A committee of Tennesseans is making preparations for the National Genealogical Conference scheduled to be convened in Nashville June 1-4, 2005. It last convened in the city in 1996. The selection of Nashville reflects the level of interest in genealogy that exists in the state.

Numerous family societies preserve and explore their families' Tennessee history. Examples of such are the Timothy Demonbreun Heritage Society, the Armstrong Clan Society, Inc., the Pierre Chastain Family Association, the Childers-Childress Family Association, and the Polk Family Reunion. Although this latter is not formally organized, it has over one thousand members on its mailing list. Most family associations publish newsletters such as *The Armstrong Chronicles* or *Le Journal of the Jacques Timothe Boucher Sicur de Montbrun Heritage Society* by which they share research and make plans for the next reunions.

A few years ago the Demonbreun Society sponsored the erection of a life-size statue of Timothy Demonbreun in Riverfront Park, Nashville. Demonbreun was a French trader who visited the future site of Nashville as early as 1769. He settled permanently in the city in 1790 where he operated a general merchandise store on the public square.

The Armstrong Clan, Inc., supports annual festivals and events, often in the form of highland games, in several states. In 2003, Tennessee Highland Games were held on October 4 in Murfreesboro. Many of the clan are from the East Tennessee area.

The Polk Reunion sponsors a Polk family manuscript collection in the duPont Library of the University of the South, Sewanee. Members are enlisted in an ongoing campaign to discover family letters, diaries, documents, and ephemera which they deposit at Sewanee.

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The principal state government offices that deal with Tennessee history are the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC), the State Library and Archives (TSLA), the State Museum (TSM), and the Divisions of Archaeology and State Parks in the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The Tennessee Historical Commission is the primary agency through which state government expresses support for Tennessee history. When compared with similar state agencies around the country, it is a small operation with a director and full-time professional staff of only fourteen persons. Yet its mission statement is to "record, preserve, interpret, and publicize events, persons, sites, structures, and objects significant to the history of the state and to enhance the public's knowledge and awareness of Tennessee history and the importance of preserving it."

One of the Commission's oldest and most popular programs, the erection and maintenance of roadside historical markers, is now in jeopardy, the result of inadequate funding. There are 1,552 such markers standing along Tennessee highways at present.

With the exception of a special legislative appropriation of $25,000 earmarked to increase the recognition of contributions by African-Americans to state history, the annual budgeted amount for the markers program has averaged about $10,000 for the past 15 years. During that time the cost of markers has risen from a low three digit number to $1,400 each. THC spends most of the $10,000 currently available to repair and replace damaged markers. The remaining dollars are usually enough to purchase one or two new ones.

Ninety per cent of all new historical markers erected during the last decade have been funded by private proponents, subject to the approval of the Commission. This practice is not yet out of hand, but THC should reclaim total control of the selection of subjects, texts, and locations.

THC is responsible for contracting with local volunteer groups to manage and interpret the fifteen state-owned historic properties in its care. Eight of the locations represent historical places and/or events that date prior to 1830. Their names, locations, and operators are:

- The Chester Inn, Jonesborough, the National Storytelling Association
- Cragfont, Castalian Springs, Historic Cragfont, Inc.
- Marble Springs, the John Sevier Farm, 1220 Highway 168, John Sevier Memorial Association
- Rock Castle, Hendersonville, Friends of Rock Castle
- Rocky Mount, Piney Flats, Rocky Mount Historical Association
- Sam Houston Schoolhouse, Maryville, Sam Houston Memorial Association
- Tipton Haynes, Johnson City, Tipton Haynes Historical Association
- Wynnewood, Castalian Springs, Bledsoe's Lick Historical Association, Inc.

Five sites are from the period 1830-1900 and are:

- The Carter House, Franklin, The Carter House Association
- Ducktown Basin Museum, Ducktown, Ducktown Basin Museum, Inc.
- James K. Polk Family Home, Columbia, James K. Polk Association
- Sam Davis Memorial Museum, Pulaski, Giles County Historical Association

- Sparta Rock House, Sparta, Sparta Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution

The Holbrook Hotel-Frank G. Clement Birthplace at Dickson and the Alex Haley House Museum at Hennings are from the twentieth century.

Volunteer groups not only manage and interpret the sites, they raise money in their respective communities to supplement modest annual state operating grants. In fact, local funds furnish about 80% of the operating costs and state grants furnish about 20%. Physical maintenance of the properties is managed by the Commission from a budgeted fund of $185,000, reduced from $200,000 three years ago.

The public-private partnership at historic sites is a very cost-effective way for the state to keep the properties open to the public, although it places a heavy responsibility on the local private sector fund-raisers. Yet, local participation in managing the properties enhances the community's sense of partnership and pride in the undertaking.

The Historical Commission is charged with administering provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The allocation of federal funds to each state for specified purposes under the act has resulted in a sizeable expansion of the Commission's role in historic preservation within the state.

By survey THC locates, identifies, records, and nominates to the National Register of Historic Places properties which meet National Register criteria. This has resulted in the listing of 1,644 individual properties in the register along with approximately 261 historic districts that include another 38,299 buildings.

Selected National Register Historic Districts in West Tennessee are:

The Bemis Historic District, a Bemis/Jackson residential and commercial area and the Green Meadows-Poplar Glen Historic District, a Memphis residential sector.

Two in Middle Tennessee are the Franklin Historic District, a Franklin residential and commercial area and the Hillsboro-West End Historic District, a Nashville residential district.

Two in East Tennessee are the Jonesborough Historic District, a Jonesborough residential and commercial area, and Southern Terminal and Warehouse Historic District, a Knoxville commercial and warehouse district.

At this time about 78 percent of the area of the state has been surveyed for historic structures. Completion of this work is made difficult because it is financed by federal grants that require local matching funds, often unavailable.

The federal program for Certified Local Governments is a responsibility of the Commission. It is designed to assist local governments in developing staff expertise in historic preservation. With such staff capability, governments are able better to initiate and manage programs such as historic zoning, to nominate properties for inclusion in the National Register, and to be alert to preserving their cultural heritage. Twenty-eight local governments are now certified as having the required expertise.

The Commission administers the program which makes federal tax credits available for restoration of income-producing properties listed on the National Register. This kind of tax relief has been instrumental in prompting an estimated $724,000,000 in construction outlays during the last twenty years. The improved, conserved properties, in turn, have yielded higher tax revenues to local governments and we have been spared the loss of another visible reminder of our history. Tax credits are calculated at twenty per cent of the cost of restoration of the property, but are not applicable to the many other construction expenses necessary to make the structure an income producer.

Representative restorations of income producing properties are found throughout the state. Examples are the Peabody Hotel, the Peabody Place complex, the old Central

Railroad Station, and the William R. Mowe Building, all at Memphis. There are many others, a few of which are the Read House and St. Elmo School, Chattanooga; the former U.S. Post Office, Bristol; the New Southern Hotel, Jackson; the old Clinchfield Railroad Station, Kingsport; the Hermitage Hotel and Union Station, Nashville; and the Southern Railway Terminal and Tyson Junior High School, Knoxville. Some of the uses for rehabilitated buildings in smaller cities and towns are restaurants, banks, offices, shops, and bed and breakfast accommodations.

Periodically, but not recently, the Commission has published books about Tennessee history. These include two multi-volume series: the *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly* and the *Messages of the Governors of the State of Tennessee*. An ongoing publication is *The Courier*, a newsletter issued three times each year with a circulation of about 9,500.

Acting in 1994 and 1998, the General Assembly created **the Tennessee Wars Commission**, made it a part of the Historical Commission, and staffed it with one of THC's fourteen professionals. Its purpose is to coordinate planning, preservation, and promotion of the structures, buildings, sites, and battlefields of Tennessee associated with the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. The Commission distributes its publication, *A Path Divided, Tennessee's Civil War Heritage Trail*, through state welcome centers at the rate of 125,000 per year.

Due in no small part to the aggressive activities of the Wars Commission, Nashville was host to the Seventh National Conference on Battlefield Preservation April 20-25, 2004. The week-long conference combined meetings, workshops, presentations, and tours for four battlefield preservation groups: the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Civil War Preservation Trust, the International Battlefield Terrain Conservation Group, and the International

Battlefield Archaeology Conference. Next year Nashville will host the Heritage Development Conference, another gathering nationwide in scope. Convening these groups in Nashville is eloquent testimony to the importance of Tennessee in the military and cultural history of the United States.

A relatively new private sector organization, **the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association**, plans to complement preservation activities in Tennessee by establishing a statewide battlefield assessment program. Its purpose is to bring the network of Civil War battlefield organizations closer together and develop a dependable fund-raising program. Locally, groups like the Parkers Crossroads Battlefield Association, established in 1993, monitor land use practices in their area and rally local support for preserving the battlefield which in this case usually means acquiring land to add to the 157 acres previously purchased. Another group advocating battlefield protection operates as Save the Franklin Battlefield Association, and it marshals opposition to commercial development of properties on the site of the 1864 battle of Franklin.

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The Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, is the steward of the largest collection of publicly accessible Tennessee history books, newspapers, manuscripts, documents, and photographs in the state. Founded in 1854, the State Library was made the official depository for state records in 1919 and its name changed to the State Library and Archives. Today it is home to a collection of more than 1.5 million items including, in part, books, periodicals, microfilm, microfiche, cd-rom, maps, and photographs. In addition, state records and manuscripts together occupy 36,790 linear feet of shelf space.

Recognizing opportunities inherent in the electronic age, TSLA has established and presides over the Tennessee Electronic Library, a selection of high-quality online

databases suitable for use by the general public as well as for students K-12 through the Ph.D. It is available to all who reside in the state. Also available is the TSLA web site through which thousands of Tennesseans have consulted public records and library holdings.

In addition to serving the professional historian, genealogists, and other students of history, the Library and Archives furnishes the General Assembly audiotapes of all its sessions, including committee meetings. It thus provides the ultimate account of what was said and when it was said: the spoken word itself.

Through the twelve libraries of its regional system, TSLA provides a smorgasbord of services to public libraries in the 91 non-metropolitan counties of the state. These local libraries receive an assortment of books including Tennessee history and related material in other formats. Also, available to them are cataloging services, technical support, and opportunities for continuing education. In lieu of books and services, the four metro libraries receive direct cash grants.

A recent TSLA survey indicates that perhaps 60 percent of public libraries maintain a special collection on local and/or statewide Tennessee history. About 45 percent have a special area in their facility devoted to local and/or state history. The survey suggested, also, that virtually all public libraries have Tennessee history material on their shelves, although the extent of individual holdings varies greatly. Each of the four metro libraries holds large collections of books, newspapers, and manuscripts for researching local and state history.

Frequently, the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City, has shared its family history discoveries with the Tennessee State Library and Archives. At the locations of the several congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, the Society oversees the operation of family libraries that are open to the public for research.

An initiative to preserve and make accessible the records of local government, growing out of **the Archives Summit of 1998**, has resulted in the establishment of the Local Archives Program. Directed by the Assistant State Archivist, a recently created position, the program entails working with local governments to improve the conditions under which records are kept and to provide secure public access to them. Since 1998 the number of local archives has increased from 20 to 43 and others, now in the planning stages, will open their facilities within the next twelve months.

The two principal objectives of the program are to establish a functioning public records commission and an adequate local archive in every county in the state. The proliferation of local archives with the resultant cataloging of both government records and private papers has made a wealth of history and genealogy available to researchers. A good start has been made, but much work remains to be done.

Outside the nurturing reach of the State Library and Archives are hundreds of smaller collections of records kept by churches, libraries, local historical societies, museums, fraternal orders, and many other not-for-profit institutions. It is true that much of this material is poorly organized and has not benefited from systematic archival arrangement or conservation.

Records of business activities kept in corporate archives seem to fare better than many local historical archives because company budgets usually provide for at least minimal professional management. Where such archives exist, there is normally recognition of their importance by senior management. Over the long term, however, the future of corporate archives is always in doubt because of the history of mergers, restructuring, liquidations, bankruptcies, and various uncertainties characteristic of a fast-changing business climate.

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The Tennessee State Museum, housed since 1981 in the lower level of the Polk Center in downtown Nashville, annually hosts approximately 150,000 visitors to view displays from its collections as well as temporary exhibits on loan from others. From time to time, guests can hear gallery talks and/or historical lectures. The facility occupies 112,618 square feet of floor space for offices, storage, gift shop, workrooms, and exhibit area. There are approximately 110,000 objects in the Museum's collections.

What is its purpose? It "is to procure, preserve, exhibit and interpret objects which relate to the social, political, economic, and cultural history of Tennessee and Tennesseans, and to provide exhibitions and programs for the educational and cultural enrichment of the citizens of the state."

TSM traces its origins to the privately owned Ralph E. W. Earl Museum in Nashville as early as 1818 and to the Tennessee Historical Society, formed in 1849. Later the Society's collections, containing some of Earl's artifacts, became the base collection for the State Museum. Most of the present holdings, in terms of sheer volume, have been acquired during the past twenty-five years. Also, during that period, through a trust agreement with Vanderbilt University, the Museum procured the outstanding Gates P. Thruston Collection of pre-Columbian Native American stone objects.

The State Museum boasts unexcelled collections of Tennessee-made flat and hollow silverware, quilts, firearms, and furniture. It has important collections relating to such well-known Tennessee personalities as Andrew Jackson, Andrew Johnson, Nathan B. Forrest, Alvin York, and Alex Haley. It, too, holds historically valuable materials from the settlement, antebellum, and Civil War periods as well as permanent military exhibits from the Spanish American War, World War I, and World War II. Many of these artifacts are displayed in the military branch museum located in the War

Memorial Building. The museum is also responsible for conducting tours and caring for the historical collection at the State Capitol.

Supporters are seeking a new building adequate to house the museum's growing inventory, to provide badly needed exhibit space, and to provide automobile and bus parking. A location on the Bicentennial Mall, next to a proposed building for the Library and Archives, has been approved by the State Building Commission, but funding is yet to come.

Since 1971 the State Museum has operated under the care of the Tennessee Arts Commission. The Tennessee State Museum Foundation, founded in 1985, assists in defraying certain exhibition costs. Admission to the museum is free of charge, but when special exhibits are brought in from other institutions, it is often necessary to make a charge to defray the unusual expenses incurred.

The National Civil Rights Museum, located at Memphis in the Lorraine Motel, site of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., leases the location and its facilities from the Tennessee State Museum. It is also steward of a collection of Civil Rights memorabilia owned by TSM.

Acquired and rehabilitated with funds supplied 50 percent by the state and 25 percent each by the County of Shelby and City of Memphis, the Lorraine Motel may ultimately become the property of the not-for-profit Lorraine Civil Rights Museum Foundation of Memphis. Manager and interpreter of the museum, the Foundation purchased a building across the street and has set up additional displays there to depict events from the Civil Rights movement.

The National Civil Rights Museum tells the story of the movement, Martin Luther King, Jr., and other of its leaders in photographs, television news clips, films, artifacts, and reconstructed scenes of the period. It has a heavy influx of visitors.

The Division of Archaeology of the Department of Environment and Conservation is the primary repository for

archaeological information relating to Tennessee. The division also conducts field investigations and monitors the work of others. Its stock-in-trade is the discovery of information about the various peoples who have lived in the state during the past 12,000 years.

A recent development is the discovery of art created by Native American Indians deep in the dark zones of numerous caves in East and Middle Tennessee. Archaeologists from the University of Tennessee are investigating the ancient cave art that depicts stylized humans and animals as well as abstract designs.

Using new methods, archaeologists are reexamining sites that were excavated in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with resulting new discoveries. After examining notes and artifacts at Harvard's Peabody Museum pertaining to 1,877 excavations in the Nashville area, staff archaeologists have rediscovered several major sites and are gathering additional information from them.

Excavations at Fort Southwest Point, Kingston; Bledsoe's Fort, Castalian Springs; Fort Blount, Gainesboro; and underwater investigation of several Civil War gunboats in the Tennessee River at Johnsonville have revealed important knowledge about our state's past. Promising new work is underway on the 800-year-old prehistoric mounds at Shiloh National Battlefield, and recent archaeological inquiry has validated the significance of the 15-acre Boiling Springs Mound and village in Brentwood.

Much of the archaeological fieldwork now done is conducted by private firms under contract with federal, state, and private clients. This practice challenges the Division of Archaeology to insure that the information so recovered is made available to researchers and the public.

From all of such public and private sector activities, archaeologists are developing new levels of understanding of the rich archaeological history of the state. Interested parties

can access reports of archaeological investigations and other related information by contacting the Tennessee Division of Archaeology.

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The twenty-two Tennessee state parks attracted a total of 9,388,035 visitors in the year ending June 30, 2002, but it is impossible to determine the number of these who came principally because of their interest in Tennessee history. There is no certain way to know how many of them were Tennesseans, but a reasonable estimate of the number is about 40% of the total.

The thirteen state parks designated "historical" or "archaeological" commemorate the historical event or events that transpired at each place. **Nine others not so designated** include within their bounds historic sites, trails, etc., but history is not the primary mission of these. In all of them, volunteers and friends groups make significant contributions of time, skill, and enthusiasm.

State parks offer a variety of historical attractions. It may be the W. G. Lenoir Pioneer Museum at Norris Dam, iron ore pits and the Old Laurel Furnace at Montgomery Bell, or the museum at David Crockett State Park. At Standing Stone one can view a boundary marker stone erected in pre-settlement years by American Indians; at Davy Crockett Birth Place near the Nolichucky River is a reconstructed version of the house in which he was born; and at Warrior's Path one is on the shores of TVA's Patrick Henry Reservoir along an ancient war and trading path used by the Cherokee.

Violent natural history is memorialized at Reelfoot Lake created by a series of earthquakes during the winter of 1811-12. Ceremonial and burial sites of American Indians, probably of the Woodland period, can be viewed at Old Stone Fort and Pinson Mounds Archaeological parks. A museum, the partially reconstructed fort, and the stabilized ruins of the Tellico Blockhouse are featured at Fort Loudon. Seat of the Cherokee government from 1832 until the forced

removal in 1838, Red Clay marks the first efforts of that nation to resist relocation beyond the Mississippi. The park includes the great Council Spring or blue hole and a replica of a Cherokee Council House and Farmstead.

At the confluence of Sulphur Fork Creek and Red River, Port Royal has a museum, an old Indian trail that later became a stagecoach route, and a river bluff walking path. Well preserved earthworks and remnants of the extensive fortifications used by both North and South can be seen at Fort Pillow along with a museum and interpretive center. The Cordell Hull Birthplace Park maintains the house in which Secretary of State Hull was born and operates a museum with artifacts, documents, and prizes awarded for his leadership in establishing the United Nations.

Other parks commemorate the bravery of Sergeant Alvin C. York of World War I fame, mark the Bicentennial of the State of Tennessee, and maintain and interpret the reconstructed replica of Fort Watauga at Sycamore Shoals of the Watauga River. At Johnsonville the park preserves the story of the Civil War battle in which Confederate cavalry overcame a Union garrison supported by gunboats on the Tennessee River. In the valley of the Hiwassee River, one can contemplate the area around the wild river as it sheltered some of the last Cherokee to leave the state in 1836.

The northern terminus of the Natchez Trace, now a national park, is remembered in the state park of that name, and Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park reminds all of the humble origins of the heralded but controversial Confederate cavalry commander.

Harpeth River State Park, opening midyear 2004, will include the Narrows of the Harpeth, the Montgomery Bell Tunnel, Newsom's Mill, and the archaeological site Mound Bottom

Many of the parks have periodic demonstrations of life in earlier times, domestic, agricultural, or military. Many cooperate with local or regional historical societies for special

presentations that portray the history of the region. Most have interpretive centers and guided tours. Some offer rental campsites and/or lodges and restaurants.

Interest in state and local history both by Tennesseans and visitors from out of state has resulted in aggressive action by **the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development** to capitalize on heritage and cultural tourism. Tennessee now ranks eighth in the nation in heritage and cultural visitation and the travel industry is the second largest employer in the state. In 1999 travelers to all destination spent over 9.7 billion dollars in Tennessee. This impact is recognized by the State Department of Economic Development which has a historic preservation planner in three of its nine development districts.

To comply with federal and state requirements protecting cultural resources, **the Tennessee Department of Transportation** employs four historic preservation specialists and six archaeologists. Their principal responsibility is to review plans for new highway construction, funded in part or altogether by federal dollars, to assure that the proposed locations do not result in the loss of significant cultural and archaeological properties.

The State of State History in Tennessee in 2004

Part II

Tennessee has been the scene of climactic struggles between frontier settlers and Native Americans, the home of three U.S. presidents, the site of decisive battles of the Civil War, an arena of momentous conflicts over women's rights and African-American rights and religious faith, the locus of crucial developments in science and engineering, and one of the birthplaces of modern popular music. These are only a small sampling of the historical milestones to which Tennessee can lay claim.

—Professor Stephen V. Ash

Working in Tennessee History

Ten national parks represent the most obvious Federal involvement in Tennessee history. Four are located on battlefields of the Civil War: Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Stones River, and the park for Chickamauga and Chattanooga. The others are the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, Natchez Trace Parkway, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, the Great Smoky Mountains, and Obed Wild and Scenic River.

Of the ten national parks, six are within the state of Tennessee and the other four extend into adjoining states. During the calendar year 2002, the six reported a total of 1,928,433 visitors. Visited primarily for their natural history, two of the six attracted about one-half of the visitors: the Big South Fork National River and Recreational Area and the Obed Wild and Scenic River. The four with large areas in adjoining states had 16,791,675 visitors, 9,316,420 of whom

visited the Great Smoky Mountain Park and 5,643,170 the Natchez Trace Parkway. By far most of the visitors to the Smokies were attracted by the beauty that grows out of the natural history of the mountains, but many make the trip to historic Cades Cove in the Tennessee part of the park. The Natchez Trace visitors include many who motored or hiked the trace for distances short of its full length. Although the northern terminus is in Tennessee, there is no measure of the number of Tennesseans who have traveled its full length or any part of it.

The only park to have conducted a detailed survey of its visitors, Stones River National Battlefield found in 2002 that 38% of its 187,941 visitors were from Tennessee. It is fair to assume that the other parks within the state had about the same proportion of Tennesseans as visitors. This projection would not apply to the parks that include Tennessee and one or two other states, however.

The United States Department of the Interior has designated **26 National Historic Landmarks in Tennessee**. The most prestigious designation given by the Department for historic properties, landmark status is intended to alert the public to sites of national importance and to encourage their owners to preserve them. Eleven are owned by the state. They are:

- The State Capitol, Nashville
- Fort Loudoun, between Maryville and Madisonville, Monroe County
- Fort Pillow, Lauderdale County
- Montgomery Bell Tunnel, Cheatham County
- Pinson Mounds, three miles east of Pinson, Madison County
- Sycamore Shoals, Watauga River near Elizabethton, Carter County
- Wynnewood, Castalian Springs, Sumner County

- The Alvin C. York farm and homestead, Pall Mall, Fentress County
- The ancestral home of James K. Polk, Columbia, Maury County
- The Chucalissa site, Memphis
- The Moccasin Bend Archaeological District, multiple owners, Chattanooga

The 15 other National Historic Landmarks and their owners are:

- The William Blount Mansion, Blount Mansion Association, Inc., Knoxville
- Shiloh Indian Mounds Site, Shiloh National Battlefield Park, Hardin County, National Park Service
- Beale Street Historic District, Beale Street Development Corporation, Memphis
- George Peabody College for Teachers, Vanderbilt University, Nashville
- Franklin Battlefield including the Carter House, Carnton, Winstead Hill, and Fort Granger, multiple owners, South of Franklin, Williamson County
- The Hermitage, Ladies Hermitage Association, Hermitage
- Hiram Masonic Lodge No. 7, Lodge No. 7, Franklin
- Jubilee Hall of Fisk University, the university, Nashville
- Long Island of the Holston, multiple owners, Kingsport
- Old First Presbyterian Church, Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville
- Rattle and Snap, privately owned, Columbia
- Rhea County Court House, the county, Dayton
- Ryman Auditorium, Gaylord Entertainment, Nashville
- The X-10 Reactor, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge

- Sun Studio, Sun Record Company/Memphis Recording, privately owned, Memphis

The Lookout Mountain Incline Railway at Chattanooga is a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark. The State Capitol, Montgomery Bell Tunnel, and Norris Dam are National Civil Engineering Landmarks.

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City and county governments have become increasingly invested in historic properties during the last half century. Their purpose has been twofold. First, they have acquired and protected historic buildings for adaptive use, and second, they have purchased or accepted properties that they deem to be of such historical value as to merit preservation and interpretation to enhance public appreciation of local and/or state history.

Adaptive use in this case usually means municipal offices, libraries, service centers, and such. Enhancing public appreciation usually means the property is held as a museum house or site and its history is actively interpreted and promoted. If the size of the facility allows, the promotion includes its use for public gatherings. At certain times, it might be offered for private events on a rental basis.

In a survey of 346 towns and cities conducted by the Tennessee Municipal League in 2003, the mayors of 191 responded and 69 reported his or her government was the owner of one or more historical properties. The total number of properties reported was 158. (The cities of Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Clarksville, Murfreesboro, and Kingsport were among those who did not respond to the survey.)

Projecting those who did not respond to the survey to answer in the same pattern as those who did, 54 additional cities would have reported ownership of about 110 additional properties. Such a projection appears to be extremely conservative as a sizeable number of municipal properties are

known to exist in several of these cities. Using the reported and projected ownership, it is apparent that towns and cities own at least 268 historic properties.

The character of the reported properties varies widely. A few are buildings of historic interest relocated to save them from the wrecking ball. Some are former depots, post offices, theaters, and city halls. There are old school buildings, museum houses, bridges, fire halls, and a few replicas such as Mansker's Fort. Indian mounds, Civil War forts, and coke ovens add to the variety. Two nineteenth century museum houses are owned by the Memphis Museum System: the Magevney House and the Mallory-Neely House.

Although there are no compiled records of county ownership of historic properties, many courthouses are of age and design that qualify them for the National Register. Not many counties own sites as extensive as Bledsoe's Fort Park, an 84-acre holding of Sumner County.

The government of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County has emerged as a leader in preserving properties that it owns with a commitment of $2,000,000 to the creation of an interpretive park on the site of Civil War Fort Negley. The fort was constructed by the Union Army during 1862-63 using a local labor force of African Americans, most still in bondage as Tennessee was not included in the Emancipation Proclamation. Originally built of stone and earth, the fort was rebuilt during the 1930s by the Federal Works Projects Administration. No maintenance nor upkeep was provided, and the restoration was in ruin by the 1960s.

Renovation and preservation of the Davidson County Courthouse, built in 1937, is now underway at a cost of $28,000,000. This represents a cost savings over erecting a new building of similar size with comparable access and parking. The project is an example of the fiscal soundness of historic preservation.

Nashville is in the final stages of restoring a National Register listed antebellum house, Sunnyside, located in city-owned Sevier Park. The offices of the **Metropolitan Historical Commission** will be located in the building which with the surrounding park is situated in a residential and commercial neighborhood now undergoing revitalization.

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A good example of collaboration among multiple historical institutions is the Annual Conference on African-American Local History and Culture held on the downtown campus of Tennessee State University in Nashville. The sponsors are Tennessee State University and the Metropolitan Historical Commission in collaboration with Fisk University and the Tennessee Historical Society.

Currently **Humanities Tennessee** is demonstrating collaboration in its professional development workshops held across the state. Among the collaborators are representatives of the Overhill Heritage Association, Duke University, Tennessee Arts Commission, Kentucky Historical Society, and American Association for State and Local History.

Further, Humanities Tennessee has launched a **Tennessee Local History Network** on its web domain to provide a way for small and emerging local history organizations to communicate with each other and with local history professionals. The networking service is offered free of charge to all who may be interested. It is expected to become a viable on-line resource for historical groups across the state.

A notable instance of cooperation is the partnership of seven cultural institutions in Chattanooga in support of Normal Park Magnet, a K-5 school in that city. The partners are Hunter Museum of American Art, the Tennessee Aquarium, the Chattanooga African-American Museum, the Chattanooga Regional History Museum, the Chattanooga Nature Museum, the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum, and the Creative Discovery Museum. Teachers reinforce the basic

curriculum offerings with interactive visits to the seven museums and to other points of cultural and historical interest in the area.

Museums in both Memphis and Nashville have solid records of collaboration within their cities. In Memphis, museums and historical groups collaborated with the Memphis Zoo recently to celebrate the internationally heralded arrival of the Chinese pandas. A museum advocacy group of 18 Nashville institutions meets regularly to monitor and support local collaboration and cooperation in their field.

Municipal historical commissions in the larger cities are increasingly active on the local history scene, especially in historic preservation and historic zoning. Several have initiated and administered historic zoning and encouraged the preservation activities of neighborhood organizations. Certain cities conduct annual competitions for the latest practitioners of historic preservation and award prizes for preservation-restoration projects completed in the prior year.

Community education dealing with the importance of preserving local history takes many forms. It usually emanates from the historical commission through seminars, conferences, public forums and hearings, nominations to the National register, and review of proposals for new construction, demolition, and alterations to existing buildings in zoning overlay and redevelopment districts. The Metropolitan Historical Commission maintains ongoing preservation education through public programs and through close working relationships with 18 Nashville neighborhood associations, most of which are dedicated to preserving and/or restoring their built environment.

Municipal historical commissions function not only as centers of concern for preservation of historic properties but also as history resource centers, ever contributing to the

understanding of local history. They, too, are advocates for preserving the best of the past to incorporate in planning for the future.

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Increased travel over public driving trails within the state is prompted by an interest in Tennessee history and a general fascination with auto travel. It is certain that each year hundreds of thousands of drivers negotiate the several historic trails that crisscross the region. Even on the most casual of unplanned motor outings, one frequently discovers something new to his own experience with local history.

The popularity of exploring in motor vehicles has given rise to extended driving trails outlined in brochures that may be picked up at the trailhead or along the way. Although most driver-explorers plan their own routes, the staked out trail is gaining in usage.

Usually descriptive, names of the trails may leave little to the imagination. For instance, try Path of the Long Hunter or Tennesseans at War: From Battlefields to Bombs in East Tennessee. For other outings choose from Agriculture in the Tennessee Overhill Trail; Mountain Heritage Tour; or the Cherohala Region Arts, Antiques, and Heritage Trail.

Explore Cherokee Heritage Trail; Cumberlands of Tennessee Heritage Trail; or Fur to Factories Heritage Area. And don't forget Tennessee's Backroads, a special drive although backroads are almost everywhere; and/or the Historic Avery Trace. Partially in Tennessee are the Great River Road, the Natchez Trace Parkway, the Appalachian Trail, Daniel Boone Wilderness Road, Freedom Trek Trail, Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, and the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Driving tours of Civil War battlefields and landmarks are popular. Some of these are the driving tour Siege of Knoxville and Fort Sanders; From Bridge to Bridge, the Civil War in East Tennessee; Tennessee Antebellum trail; and Tennessee Civil War Railroad. Others are Tullahoma Campaign Civil War Tour; the Sam Davis Trail; and Battle of Nashville Driving Tour. And then there are the driving tours of the Battle of Parkers Crossroads, the Battle of Hartsville, and the Spring Hill Battlefield.

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Private organizations were the center of some of the earliest historical activities in the state. Two of the three presidential homes were beneficiaries of this interest.

One of the largest private sector initiatives to preserve and interpret Tennessee history came in 1889 when a group of women, most from the Nashville area, formed the Ladies Hermitage Association (LHA). They acquired in trust from the state President Andrew Jackson's home and 25 acres of his 500-acre plantation. The remaining 475 acres were used for the Tennessee Confederate Soldiers Home until it closed and the state conveyed that acreage to LHA. Now, 115 years later, the association owns, maintains, and interprets the Hermitage and neighboring Tulip Grove, home of the Andrew Jackson Donelsons. The combined sites contain 1,120 acres. The private organization has inspired gifts of several millions of dollars for restoration of both houses, construction of a visitors center, and maintenance of the grounds and gardens.

During the year 2004, a bicentennial celebration commemorates Andrew Jackson's 1804 purchase of the farm he would name "the Hermitage." The centerpiece of the celebration is the restoration of the first Hermitage, a log

house on Jackson's original purchase. Due to be completed by midsummer, the restoration is a project of Save America's Treasures and Restore America: A Salute to Preservation.

The mission statement of LHA shows a determination to relate the era of Jackson and the Hermitage properties to present times. "We will engage the public through preservation, interpretations, exhibitions, education, research and publications to increase understanding of the complex issues of Andrew Jackson and his times, and to discuss their relationship to issues and events of today, and to inspire cultural citizenship."

Research takes many forms at the Hermitage, but has prominently included ongoing archaeological investigation of the certain sites on the property. Drawing on the experience of Jackson and his times, LHA conducts public education programs including seminars and colloquies featuring historians of national stature. To enhance its exhibits and educational programs, the Association has established an affiliate relationship with the Smithsonian Institution.

In 2003, *USA Today* recommended the Hermitage as one of the ten great American Historic Places to visit. Based on an average of the last five years, annual visitation is approximately 200,000 persons.

LHA is planning to incorporate the 1,120-acre farm into the overall interpretation of the Hermitage. Specifically, a new master plan provides for a working farm and developing the role of the African American slaves who worked its fields and herds. Some of the log cabins that housed them will be restored.

Looking ahead, LHA has recently kicked off what it describes as "an ambitious master planning process that would create a new outdoor recreational area, archaeology and education center, conference center, and [the] Andrew Jackson Presidential Library and Museum." Big dreams have a way of coming true at the Hermitage.

Acquisition and preservation of **the family home of President James K. Polk**, now owned by the state, was the result of the persistent efforts of the Polk Memorial Association, formed in 1924. Located in Columbia, Maury County, the home is the only building still in existence in which Polk actually lived, with the exception of the White House. His Nashville residence on Seventh Avenue just north of Church Street was razed a half century ago.

The Columbia house built in 1816 is located on a one-acre site that includes the "Sisters House," circa 1820. The latter was, at different times, the residence of two of the President's married sisters. A reconstructed kitchen and a restored formal garden share the downtown location.

Approximately 12,000 visitors register their presence at the Polk Home every year. The Memorial Association has 1,100 members. Its primary purpose is to educate the public about this remarkable president who by virtue of the annexation of Texas and victory in the war with Mexico increased the land area of the United States by 1,193,061 square miles and extended it all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

Since 1924, volunteers have played active roles in all aspects of preserving and interpreting the Polk property. City, county, and state funds, combined with subscriptions from the private sector, have underwritten operating budgets, now at an annual level of approximately $200,000.

Periodically, the association produces special fundraising events. Led by two full-time professionals, the director and a collections curator, the Polk Memorial Association is now a recognized steward not only for the houses, but for an extensive collection of Polk memorabilia and family traditions. Throughout the year, the Association maintains a busy calendar of educational events. It is a member of the Tennessee Association of Museums and the American Association of Museums.

The Greeneville home of Andrew Johnson, the third president of the United States from Tennessee, is owned,

maintained, and interpreted by the National Park Service. It is the anchor building in the Parks' National Historic Site, Greeneville, Tennessee, that includes the President's homestead on Main Street, his early home and his tailor shop both on Depot Street, and the Andrew Johnson National Cemetery on Monument Avenue. The homestead was occupied by the Johnson family in 1851, and the tailor shop represents Johnson's first business in Greeneville circa 1826. The National Cemetery contains Johnson's gravesite and an impressive monument to his life and service.

The Park Service is assisted by volunteers from the Andrew Johnson Memorial Association of Greeneville. The Andrew Johnson Memorial Library at Tusculum College and the Nathanael Greene Museum, Main and McKee Streets, hold collections of Johnson documents and artifacts.

The State of State History in Tennessee in 2004

Part III

We need to understand our state and national history. We can't have patriotism in a vacuum!

—*Reavis Mitchell*
Professor of History
Fisk University, Nashville

Preserving Tennessee History

No single nongovernmental organization has done more to preserve historic structures in Tennessee than the **Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities** headquartered at Nashville. A pioneer in the field, APTA owns and/or leases more historic properties than any other private sector entity in the state. The association has promoted the preservation of historic structures throughout Tennessee since it was founded in 1951.

APTA has not only advocated historic preservation through its 14 chapters, but has become an owner and/or interpreter of 16 significant properties. The most heavily visited is Belle Meade Plantation in Nashville. It attracted 147,209 visitors in 2003. Also, in Nashville is the Buchanan Log House, an early 1800s two-story house. In Knoxville, the Ramsey House is situated on one hundred acres of the original plantation, and a replica of the John Crockett Tavern, boyhood home of the frontiersman Davy Crockett, stands in Morristown. The Woodruff-Fontaine House, a handsome 1870 three-story second empire mansion furnished with period antiques, is located in Memphis. There, too, is the Harrison-Goyer-Lee House, the first section built in 1845, with a substantial addition in 1871.

Arlington is the site of four properties in Arlington: The Rachel H. K. Burrow Museum, the Historic Post Office, the Blacksmith Shop, and Holy Innocents Cemetery and Meditation Garden. At Somerville, the Hannum-Rhea House, built in 1831, is being converted into a museum and cultural center. The Little Courthouse, Hardeman County's first courthouse built in 1824, and the Pillars, an impressive residence built by John Houston Bills in 1826-1829, are located in Bolivar.

One of the most unusual of the APTA sites is the Athenaeum Rectory of Columbia, the last remaining building of the Columbia Athenaeum, a widely-known girls' school from 1852 to 1903. Built in 1835, the rectory was designed with and maintains Moorish architectural details, unusual for nineteenth-century Tennessee. Jefferson City is the site of the Glenmore Mansion, erected in 1868-69 by John Roper Branner. It contains 27 rooms as well as a smaller addition called "Doll Town," built later to serve as winter quarters for the family. At Gainesboro, the APTA is promoting reconstruction of Fort Blount, a 1790s stockaded installation at an important crossing of the Cumberland River used by settlers bound for the West.

The association led in the preservation and interpretation of Cragfont, built from 1798 to 1802 near Castalian Springs, and the Cravens House then located adjacent to the Civil War battlefield at Lookout Mountain. APTA is no longer responsible for these sites as the state now owns Cragfont with Historic Cragfont, Inc., maintaining and interpreting it, and the National Park Service has made the Cravens House a part of the Chattanooga and Chickamauga National Military Park.

The APTA is the oldest statewide nonprofit historic preservation organization in the state and the fourth oldest in the United States. A mission statement declares its purpose: "The Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities promotes and encourages active participation in

the preservation of Tennessee's rich historic, cultural, architectural, and archaeological heritage through restoration, education, advocacy, and statewide cooperation."

Historic Rugby is one of a number of independently owned and operated historic sites in the state. Founded in 1880 by the English author-social reformer Thomas Hughes, Rugby was intended to be a cooperative, class free, agricultural community for young sons of English gentry and for others seeking to start life anew in the United States. Twenty of the original buildings still stand.

The village of Rugby is located on property adjacent to the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. It can be reached from State Scenic Highway 52 about one and one-half driving hours northwest of Knoxville and two and one-half hours northeast of Nashville.

Historic Rugby hosts several major public events each year. One of the most popular is the Annual Festival of British and Appalachian Culture.

Another independently owned historic property is **the home of William Blount**, governor of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio. Located in Knoxville at 200 West Hill Avenue with its back yard sloping to the north bank of the Tennessee River, the Blount Mansion of 1792 is owned by the Blount Mansion Association, Inc.

The free-standing single story office at the rear of the living quarters served as the territorial capitol from 1792 to 1796 when the territory was converted into the state of Tennessee. Daniel Smith, secretary of the territory, assisted the governor and served in his place when Blount was absent.

The main section of the "mansion" is a wood frame structure of two stories with clapboard siding. The eastern wing, containing a formal entrance and drawing room, was added at an early date. Other features include a detached kitchen, colonial revival gardens, and a visitors center located in an adjacent house built in 1819.

The most visited historic house site in Tennessee is Graceland, the home of "the King of Rock and Roll" Elvis Presley (1935-1977). Located in Memphis, Graceland attracts enough visitors (500,000-700,000) each year to rank it among the top five historic house attractions in America. Elvis purchased Graceland in 1957. He made it his home for the rest of his life and is buried on the premises. From his first recording by Sun Records of Memphis in 1954, he became one of the most successful entertainers of the twentieth century. He brought amazing energy to the songs he played and sang whether performing on television, in the movies, or in live concerts.

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The Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University is one of the most innovative agencies for historic preservation in the United States. Founded in 1984, it was a pioneer in bringing the field of historic preservation into an academic setting to educate and otherwise prepare professionals. By its own account, "The Center for Historic Preservation is a research and public service institute committed to the preservation, protection, enhancement, and sensitive promotion of our historic environment. A Center of Excellence at Middle Tennessee State University, funded by the General Assembly and the university, its primary responsibility is to serve Tennessee's 95 counties.

"The Center focuses on its dual missions of improving higher education outcomes in Tennessee Board of Regents universities and expanding the state's economic opportunities through programs and activities that focus on the appropriate revitalization of historic properties and . . . economic and recreational opportunities. Through its varied resources and its partnerships at local, state, and national levels, the Center responds to the requests, needs, and concerns of

communities, individual, agencies and organizations, both governmental and not-for-profit, working towards historic preservation goals."

Members of the center staff teach selected undergraduate and graduate courses and are the university's "primary conduits for the professional training and placement of students who choose the Department of History's Master's Degree with emphasis in Public History."

The Center offers services that include master plans for historic sites, interpretive brochures, feasibility studies, and heritage education plans and units for K-12. It maintains electronic databases on Tennessee Century Farms, Tennessee Civil War and Reconstruction sites, and Tennessee Rural African American churches. It furnishes architectural assessment and recommendations, National Register nominations for individual structures, districts, and cemeteries, and other assistance related to historic preservation.

Probably the most recent and substantial addition to the center's responsibilities is administration of **the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA)**, a program enacted by Congress in 1996 and inaugurated here in 2001. Under the act, the 34 National Heritage Areas include parts of multiple states with one exception: Tennessee is the only state in the Union to be totally and exclusively included in a single heritage area. The program offers partnerships to other historical organizations for interpreting the legacies of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Preservation of historical sites of the period 1860-1875 will be viewed with due urgency. The overall legacy will be assessed by examining eight "heritage corridors" that figured prominently in the times and physically covered most of the state. The first three follow the counties served by the Mississippi, Tennessee, and Cumberland Rivers. The remaining five corridors spread over the extensive area served by the five railroads of the 1860s.

TCWNHA has worked with partners throughout the state to produce a variety of printed materials, electronic publications including the TCWNHA web site and the Heritage Education Network web site, and exhibits and informational kiosks. Major partners are the center for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, the Tennessee Historical Commission, the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, and state government generally as represented by three persons appointed respectively by the governor, the speaker of the senate, and the speaker of the house.

Historic preservation in Tennessee received a signal boost at the level of state government when Governor Phil Bredesen and First Lady Andrea Conte recently announced plans to restore the historic Governor's Residence on Curtiswood Lane in Nashville. Architects are using a surviving set of the original working drawings that guided construction of the house for National Life and Accident Insurance Company executive Ridley Wills in 1929. They expect to maintain the design integrity of the house as they update the mechanical and electrical systems and bring them into compliance with local building codes. A new slate roof is in place and other exterior restoration will follow.

The State of Tennessee purchased the property, then called Far Hills, on January 7, 1949. It has since been the official residence of Tennessee governors and their families. Unexpended funds from Governor Bredesen's inauguration have been contributed to the undertaking, and additional funds will be solicited from the private sector. Former Governors Winfield Dunn and Ned Ray McWherter have suggested that, before the project is complete, the General Assembly should make a supporting appropriation from state revenues.

An important development in historic preservation is the recent advent of **the Tennessee Preservation Trust (TPT)**, a statewide organization to guard the public's interest in historic properties threatened by demolition for whatever reason. Networking with other preservationists, TPT is already a strong advocacy group. It brings zeal and professionalism to a cause that has many followers in the Volunteer State.

The Land Trust for Tennessee, working "to preserve the unique character of Tennessee's natural and historic landscapes and sites for future generations," is a not-for-profit organization that promotes conservation easements. The Land Trust can accept donations of easements to conserve and protect the historic, scenic, and natural values of specific tracts of land. The donor continues to own the land and can use it or sell it within the limitations agreed upon in the conservation easement. The Land Trust of Tennessee holds the easements in perpetuity.

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Living and reenacting history has increased in popularity during the last quarter century. The portrayal of living conditions in earlier times, complete with artifacts and appropriately costumed actors and actresses, has been both instructive and enjoyable. One of the first uses of using living history to interpret historic sites in Tennessee occurred several years ago at **Rocky Mount** where volunteers dramatically lived out the decade of the 1790s, speaking to visitors and each other as if they had never lived a day beyond that period. Their focus was—and is—on the Southwest Territory when Rocky Mount was the territorial capital for Governor William Blount and Secretary Daniel Smith from 1790 to 1792. Presentations of this kind engage visitors in a lively way.

The story of **Mansker's fort**, as a gateway to the settlement of Middle Tennessee, is told by living history

volunteers, costumed and equipped for the period 1780-1800. Located in Goodlettsville, the fort is a replica of Kasper Mansker's construction of 1781-1782.

There is a thin line between living history and reenactment. Living history is a term applied to recreating the characters and conditions of a given time, often when the locale is important to the validity of the presentation. Reenactment is a term usually associated with military events such as battles and camp life. Reenactments can be conducted on improvised battlefields and campsites, but they are usually near the actual location of the event depicted.

Reenactment of the battle of Blue Springs, a key battle for the control of East Tennessee on October 18, 1863, near Mosheim, Tennessee, headlines a clash of forces but, in addition, provides various demonstrations, including life in the tented field. The annual four-day affair offers lectures explaining the battle and the times. For the seventh consecutive year, the congregation of a local church located near the reenactment site has served the re-enactors, men, women, and children a complimentary "dinner on the ground" on the final day of the program. The community promotes the battle simulation and attendant activities while providing logistical support and general coordination for the entire event. The site can accommodate several hundred re-enactors.

Such reenactments often provide opportunities for collectors to display and explain collections of appropriate military artifacts such as uniforms, weapons, camp gear, and the like. Civil War reenactments seem to be the most popular, but reenactments of battles and campaigns prior to 1860 are growing in popularity.

Civil War re-enactors represent both Union and Confederate troops. The participation of African Americans falls heavily on the side of the Union as they portray soldiers such as those in the U.S. Colored Infantry. As they attempt to capture a balanced portrayal of the times, other African

Americans play the role of body servants to Confederate soldiers. The re-enactors profess a sincere brotherhood across blue-gray and racial lines.

Reenacting groups exist stateside and three of their number in Memphis reflect some of the duties still extant in armies. These are the Seventh Tennessee Cavalry reflecting mounted soldiers, the 52nd Tennessee String Band representing musicians; and the 51st Tennessee Infantry representing the foot soldier. To prepare and equip themselves as reenactors represents a substantial commitment of time and money. It is a rare learning experience.

Certain living history groups move their demonstrations around the region to provide cultural insights into various periods in Tennessee history. For example, during the week April 3-10 of this year, about 500 such volunteers camped out at Bledsoe's Fort Park at Castalian Springs to present a number of living history scenarios, none of which included Civil War battles. The occasion was the 2004 Southeastern Primitive Rendezvous staged in cooperation with the National Rendezvous and Living History Foundation and the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association.

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African Americans are finding accounts of their contribution to the state's heritage attractive and inspirational. This has meant not only additional attention to their genealogy and oral traditions, but new scholarship focused on the African American presence in Tennessee.

Publications researched and written by local African Americans have introduced entire communities to new perspectives that can contribute significantly to a better understanding of relations between the races. A missing part of the state's recorded experience is thus emerging from the shadows.

A movement is underway in Nashville to establish a museum of African American history and culture. Plans are further along for the erection of a memorial to Tennessee

United States Colored Troops of the Civil War, proposed by the African American Cultural Alliance. Approved for the National Cemetery at Nashville, the memorial will be in the form of a life-size bronze statue representing a soldier standing with his rifle, bayonet fixed.

A private sector undertaking in Nashville now attracting public interest is the erection of a mental health memorial on the burial grounds of clients of the old Central State Hospital owned by the State of Tennessee. An extensive work, the proposed memorial will be dedicated to the memory of all who died at the hospital. It will acknowledge the Caucasian burials at the site and African American burials a few hundred yards away on the property of the Nashville International Airport. Although burials were segregated, research indicates that Central State may have been the first public mental health institute in the United States to accept African-American patients.

Patriotic and veterans' organizations preserve important parts of Tennessee history. In nearly every circumstance, membership in them opens the way to learning more about specific wars and other national crises. The various interests of patriotic groups extend from before 1776 to the present time.

The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Tennessee, represented by town committees in the four major cities, deals with the American century prior to independence.

The history of the American Revolution and of Tennesseans who participated in it are the principal concerns of **the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)** and **the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)**. There are 105 DAR chapters and 15 SAR chapters in the state. **The Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims**, Tennessee Branch, at Millington, is a patriotic lineage society. Twelve chapters of **the U.S. Daughters of the War of 1812** memorialize the

second war for American independence in which Tennessee volunteers under General Andrew Jackson repulsed the British at the Battle of New Orleans.

The organizations of **The United Daughters of the Confederacy** with 52 chapters in Tennessee and **the Sons of Confederate Veterans** with 65 camps exist to preserve and defend the heritage of the antebellum South and the Confederate army of 1861-65. They memorialize the valor of those who died during the Civil War in the service of the Confederate States of America.

Responding to the participation of Union troops in the Civil War, **the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War** work to preserve the heritage of Union soldiers. They have four camps in the state. **Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War** is a patriotic organization to commemorate and honor Union veterans who served in that conflict. There are four DUV tents in the state.

The American Legion, with veterans of World War I and all wars since eligible for membership, is the largest patriotic organization in the state with 60 posts. **The Veterans of Foreign Wars**, also growing out of World War I, represents a large number of veterans of twentieth century wars. There are other veterans groups of twentieth century origin including **the Disabled American Veterans**, **American Veterans**, **Vietnam Veterans**, and others. In the records and archives of these organizations and in the memories of their members are the stories of Tennesseans who left their homes and risked their lives at the call of their country.

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For the past 200 years or so, many Tennesseans of **the Protestant Christian** persuasion have had their interest in state and local history piqued by studying the records of their denomination at the local level. During the same period, **the Catholic Church** in Tennessee has been a diligent steward of its historical records to the delight of researchers.

Churches and church members have been makers and keepers of our history since the arrival of preachers in the wilderness during the 1770s. During the last fifty years, numerous congregations have published histories of their churches that in many cases teach us much about the secular history of the community.

Church records are replete with stories and examples of how local residents coped with the many crises of the past 220 years, who fell in which war, and the fate of church buildings and congregations during the Civil War. Certain church minutes record congregational sentiment on secession, slavery, prohibition, the Scopes trial, horse racing, women's right to vote, civil rights, and wars, as well as theological traditions.

Congregations of **the Jewish faith** have come upon the Tennessee scene principally since 1850, but their participation in community life and their practice of record keeping have combined to yield rich local history. Except for the difference in traditions, Jewish records reveal information similar to that offered by the Christians. Additionally, their archives hold important, if distressing, accounts of before and after experiences of those who emigrated from Europe during the 1930s to escape persecution by the government of Nazi Germany.

The State of State History in Tennessee in 2004

Part IV

I have lived in Tennessee for thirty years, and have been studying, teaching, and writing about the state's history for nearly that long. In that time, I have become deeply convinced of the importance of preserving, expanding, and disseminating knowledge of that history, and equally convinced that more needs to be done in Tennessee to accomplish those goals.

—Professor Stephen V. Ash

Conclusion and Recommendations

Through cooperation, those who protect and deliver our history have taken initiatives that serve Tennessee well every day. Cooperation has occurred between all kinds of government agencies (federal, state, regional, county, and city), and the hundreds of nongovernmental groups. Without this cooperation, the Tennessee Historical Commission could not function. For museums, the Tennessee Association of Museums has been successful in recognizing and promoting cooperation among its members as well as with the larger community.

Overall the professionals (paid full-time staffers) who work in the field of Tennessee history are performing well. Volunteers are responding with ability and enthusiasm as they join the effort to deliver the history of Tennessee to Tennesseans and to those who live outside the state. The large number of private and public agencies in the field guarantee that Tennessee and local history will be presented in many different ways.

Collaboration occurs between historical organizations to produce programs, exhibitions, and other events, but not as often as opportunities are afforded. Groups in the larger cities seem to find collaboration much easier and more effective than their counterparts in the smaller cities and towns.

A certain amount of **duplication of effort** and service is endemic in preserving and presenting Tennessee history. Duplication does not seem to be of such proportions that it results in unnecessary expenditures, however.

Although all of us volunteers must continue to seek increased support for Tennessee history from the private sector, the state government must adequately fund its history-related agencies. **That is our greatest need**. By and large, successful state programs developed over the last ten years are in place, but they have been weakened and in some cases suspended due to necessary fiscal restraints. The state heritage agencies have delivered their share of history for a very low cost. They have been capable stewards of the taxpayers' dollars.

An understanding of and pride in Tennessee history form the wellspring from which **true national patriotism** can flow. The people of the Volunteer State need state government to renew its commitment to be both guardian and promoter of our shared heritage. By any comparison, the required cash outlay is modest indeed; it is not a budget buster.

Recommendations for the Principal State Agencies That Share Heritage Responsibilities

The elementary and secondary schools. From its beginning in elementary schools, the study of state history is relegated to a blend-in with already constricted courses in

American history. The increased emphasis on teaching to prepare students for standardized tests suggests that state and American history may receive even less attention.

1. Teachers should take classes on field trips to nearby museums and historic sites to complement the limited classroom instruction in Tennessee and American history. A sense of place is important to all of us and students should have every possible opportunity to learn about their town, their county, their state.

2. Social studies teachers and others who teach Tennessee and American history should be required to demonstrate proficiency in the teaching of these subjects.

3. Teachers of English composition should draw on local and state history for subject matter in their writing assignments.

State Colleges and Universities.

1. Institutions of higher education should appropriately encourage and reward faculty teaching, research, and public service in the field of Tennessee history.

The Tennessee Historical Commission. The budget of THC for fiscal 2003-2004 is $1,994,400 of which approximately one-third is provided by federal funds directed to the Commission's wide range of activities required under the National Historic Preservation Act. The recommendations that follow will require an increase in state funding, but small enough when considered in terms of the services it will deliver.

1. THC should ask for a major restoration of funds used for historic site operating grants and maintenance. Failure to meet this need risks the substantial private sector support that enables the state to operate state-owned sites at about twenty percent of the actual cost.

2. THC should seek budget support to create a "history central" of two positions to keep an updated calendar of events statewide, to maintain a web site, and to publish an

expanded version of *The Courier*, its present newsletter. Presently, there is no central office or agency, public or private, for gathering, recording, and sharing information about activity in the field of Tennessee history. Similarly, there is no office, public or private, that has an overall view of what is going on in preserving and communicating our history. "History Central" would keep a directory of the organizations and institutions in the state that direct a significant part of their mission to state and local history. It also could serve as an avenue for encouraging and assisting county historians to keep their local history before the public at every opportunity. "Central" would maintain an updated list of publicly owned (state, county, city) historic properties with a brief statement of their historic significance and current use. It would at all times maintain an overview of historical activity in the state.

3. THC should increase its budget request by approximately $35,000 per year from the present budgeted amount to maintain and replace damaged highway historical markers and to pay for 21 new ones, the average number erected in each of the last three years. At the present THC requires proponents of new markers to pay the costs of them, subject to approval or rejection by the Commission. Should private proposals and payments be continued, THC will be compromised in its ability to see that the most important persons, places, or events are commemorated by markers located throughout the state.

4. In cooperation with the Tennessee Historical Society, the East Tennessee Historical Society, and the West Tennessee Historical Society, THC should set an annual theme for Tennessee history related to a carefully orchestrated Tennessee "history week" or "history month."

5. THC should partner with the Center for Historic Preservation at MTSU, the University of Tennessee at

Knoxville, the State Museum, and the State Library and Archives to stage an annual or biennial Tennessee History Summit.

6. THC should take the lead in cooperation with those agencies just mentioned to provide training for the volunteers who work in all capacities at historic sites and museum houses. This is in response to a widespread need to upgrade the quality of the interpretation and education we are now offering to visiting elementary and high school students and the general public.

The Tennessee State Library and Archives.

1. TSLA should request funds to reinstate the suspended program of microfilming county records.

2. The Local Archives Program should further extend its reach in assisting the development and administration of local archives, the front line today for preserving Tennessee and American history.

3. TSLA should continue and expand its program of digitizing photographs and other historical documents, both for purposes of preservation and for future use by the public via the Internet.

4. TSLA should reallocate present funds to underwrite an aggressive effort to acquire photographs, manuscripts, documents, old newspapers, and other dated materials now fast fading from the American scene. Delaying even a few years will see many of these items further deteriorate and/or gravitate to collections outside the state. Others will simply be lost.

5. TSLA should initiate and maintain a list of all current Tennessee historical periodicals including newsletters.

6. TSLA should post on its web site twice each year a list of books that relate to Tennessee history published during the previous six months. The list would include those

published by commercial presses, not-for-profit presses, those published privately by the authors, and others of interest.

7. TSLA should market itself as a resource center to scholars, historians, academic institutions, and the media to further serious interest in and dissemination of Tennessee history.

Capital Outlay. State government should expedite relocation of TSLA to a new facility on or near the Bicentennial Mall as identified in state plans that have been before the Building Commission. Use of its present building by another state entity has already been determined, but the necessary capital outlays have not come forth. The new location will provide easier public access and much needed parking space. Postponement of construction is sure to result in higher building costs.

The Tennessee State Museum.

1. TSM should seek restoration by the state of acquisition funds that have been trimmed to $7,500 for the present fiscal year, down from $125,000 in 1978. New funds should be restored to an inflation-adjusted level to enable TSM to add desirable, available materials to its collections. This museum has proved its skills in acquiring, maintaining, and exhibiting its collections. New acquisitions are essential to enable TSM further to share with local museums, thus upgrading their exhibitions and partially answering the needs of would-be museum visitors who live at inconveniently long distances from Nashville.

2. TSM should propose two additional staff positions to extend professional services to local museums throughout the state. Given the existence of the many local historical museums now in place and the certain early arrival of others, there is a pressing need for a central state source of free advice, consultation, and training for their directors, curators, institutional development officers, board members and others. The State Museum is the logical choice for these

services. In fact, TSM has extended similar assistance from time to time, but tight budgets and reduced staffing have curtailed its ability to respond to these specific needs. A central source (two positions) adequately funded could provide the guidance and technical assistance to materially improve the quality of service provided by local museums. The state does not need to manage local museums, but locals need the professional services that TSM could provide.

3. TSM should request funding be restored for the position of Conservator to guard against further deterioration of historic properties in its collections.

Capital Outlay. State government should implement its plans for the museum to be relocated to a new building on the Bicentennial Mall near the proposed location of the State Library and Archives. Truly one of the most outstanding state historical museums in the United States, TSM needs to be located above ground with easy access, abundant indoor space, and adequate parking.

The State Parks.

1. The Department of Environment and Conservation should include in its budget sufficient funds to see that state parks have adequate maintenance. The parks are a proud and much used asset of this state.

2. State Parks should periodically review all historic venues to assure that the presentation of applicable Tennessee and American history is done in an attractive and forthright manner.

3. State Parks should obtain the assistance of the State Museum to review inventories of and recommend protective strategies for all historical artifacts housed or possessed by the department.

4. Park officials should seek opportunities to provide briefings to conferences and other group sessions convened on their premises. The briefing should outline the historical significance of the park and/or the history of the park itself.

Tourist Development.

1. Tourist Development should seriously consider developing elder hostel programs in cooperation with THC, TSM, and the state and regional historical societies.

2. As a part of marketing heritage tourism, Tourist Development should encourage counties to publish maps showing the locations of historic places and events within their borders.

The University of Tennessee Press.

1. The press should explore the feasibility of completing the series of Tennessee county histories, 19 of which were published by the Memphis State University Press before it was discontinued.

Economic and Community Development.

1. Economic and Community Development should add the position of preservation specialist in each of its six development district offices that do not have a specialist currently on staff.

2. The Department should promote the economic benefits of heritage education and heritage tourism, the latter of which is a major source of income for Tennesseans.

All State Agencies.

1. All history-related agencies should share information and cooperate in bringing Tennessee history to the public. Representatives of all such agencies should convene once or twice each year to network, to eliminate duplication of effort, and to cooperate toward reaching the goal of a citizenry well informed about its history.

Recommendations for Not-for-Profit Nongovernmental Organizations (NGO)

1. Local NGOs should make their program(s) attractive and important enough to generate adequate local financial support from both private and public sources.

2. Local NGOs should facilitate the delivery of Tennessee history to children by encouraging and/or producing illustrated children's books about persons and events in local and state history.

3. Local NGOs should conduct workshops and summer camps for children at historic sites.

4. Local museums should concentrate on collecting from their immediate locale, a county for instance.

5. All NGOs should recognize and promote the importance of public-private cooperation in preserving, interpreting, and presenting our history. Heritage tourism can be turned into a revenue stream that can contribute financially to the support of museums and historic sites. All of this can be done with a focus on local history while promoting tourism.

6. All NGOs should make serving in the field of Tennessee history a meaningful and satisfying experience for volunteers.

7. All NGOs should plan and forever remember that their mission is primarily educational.

8. The Tennessee Historical Society, in cooperation with the East Tennessee Historical Society and the West Tennessee Historical Society, should establish a Speakers Bureau with speakers identified as available in each of the three grand divisions.

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Agencies and workers at all levels, professionals and volunteers, should dedicate themselves anew to fair, objective study, and evenhanded presentations. They should follow closely any new historical discoveries that affect the subject or subjects being presented. Our highest priority must be to see that Tennessee history is presented with integrity, free of ideological clamor or political spin.

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April 30, 2004